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Forest & Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center

BRIEFING PAPER: Snake River Field Station

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The Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center is one of 17 science and technology centers in the USGS. We provide research and technical assistance to support sound management and conservation of natural resources in the western United States. The center's Snake River Field Station, located in Boise, ID, plays a substantial role in carrying out this mission (Table 1).

The Snake River Field Station, formerly known as the Raptor Research and Technical Assistance Center, was established in 1990 by the Bureau of Land Management and became affiliated with the USGS in 1996. The station has strong cooperative ties with Boise State University, which is the field station's host institution, and with a wide variety of other agencies and institutions.

The Snake River Field Station is located on the Boise State University Campus. About 40 personnel are stationed there, including federal research staff, Boise State University Raptor Research Center staff and cooperator personnel, and students in the Raptor Biology Graduate Program and the General Biology Graduate Program. Facilities include office space, two research labs, a geographical information system lab, and the Richard Olendorff Memorial Library. The library contains 31,000 holdings on the subjects of raptor ecology, biology, and related topics.

Table 1. Titles of ongoing research at the Snake River Field Station.

- Assessments of golden eagle nesting density & productivity, Snake River Birds of Prey Natl. Conserv. Area
- Assessing threats to the Swainson's hawk
- Assessment of raptor electrocution risks & fire hazards in the Snake River Birds of Prey Natl. Conserv. Area
- Avian monitoring program for Oregon & Washington
- Avian research & monitoring support
- Characteristics of preferred foraging & nesting habitat for tundra-breeding shorebirds
- Demonstration of methods & techniques for natural resources management by the military
- Ecology of yellow-billed, Pacific, & red-throated loons on the North Slope of Alaska
- Effect of cattle on habitat selection by bighorn sheep
- Evaluation of midwinter bald eagle counts
- Fragmentation of shrubsteppe habitats & breeding passerine birds
- Geographic information system database for sage grouse for shrubsteppe management in Idaho
- Olendorff Library-Raptor Information System
- Reproduction, turnover, & dispersal of American kestrels in southwestern Idaho
- Reproductive ecology of arctic breeding birds
- Shorebird monitoring plan for Western North America
- Status assessment of nesting ferruginous hawks in southwestern Idaho
- Survey design & behavioral ecology of Lapland longspurs in northern Alaska
- Survival, dispersal, & long-range movements of Prairie falcons
- Toward a continental raptor monitoring strategy
- Use of harmonic radar to follow local & migratory movements of passerine birds in shrub-steppe habitats